



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,454	01/10/2001	Narendra K. Gupta	2000-0163	8135

7590

04/09/2003

Wendy W. Koba, Esq.
P.O. Box 556
Springtown, PA 18081

EXAMINER

PHAN, JOSEPH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

J

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

10

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/757,454

Applicant(s)

GUPTA ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph T Phan

Art Unit

2645

⑦

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bulfer et al., Patent #5,805,672.**

Regarding claim 1, Bulfer teaches a voice-operated arrangement for interacting with a dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF)-controlled system, the arrangement comprising:

a speech recognition unit responsive to voice commands from a user and generating a digital signal representative of a particular received voice command (15 Fig.1 and col.3 lines 10-25);

a speech-to-DTMF tones application, responsive to the digital signal outputs from the speech recognition unit for accessing a proper user record from a plurality of user records (col.3 lines 10-25)

retrieving dial-out information for a DTMF-controlled system associated with the user and completing a communication path between the user and said associated DTMF-controlled system, wherein said voice-operated arrangement monitors the communication path and retrieves predetermined voice commands uttered by the user

and translates said predetermined voice prompts into DTMF tones which are thereafter transmitted to said associated DTMF-controlled system (col.3 lines 25- col.4 line 41).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Bulfer teaches the arrangement as defined in claim 1 wherein each user record includes a spoken voice identification field(col.3 lines 10-25; the telephone number(voice ID) spoken by caller corresponds to the user records).

Regarding claim 4, Bulfer teaches the arrangement as defined in claim 1 wherein a plurality of different DTMF-controlled systems are associated with a user and the user record comprises a plurality of different fields for each DTMF-controlled system of said plurality of DTMF-controlled systems (*col.3 lines 10-25; the user has a plurality of DTMF-controlled systems and each comprises a different number and fields(review, replay, or banking account info.,etc).*

Regarding claim 5, Bulfer teaches the arrangement as defined in claim 4 wherein the plurality of different fields for each DTMF-controlled system of the plurality of DTMF-controlled systems in a user record comprises a dial-out access number for each DTMF-controlled system and a mapping of a plurality of voice commands to an associated plurality of DTMF tone sequences [*col.3 lines 10-25; the user has a plurality of DTMF-controlled systems and each comprises a different number(fields).*]

Regarding claim 6, Bulfer teaches the arrangement as defined in claim 5 wherein the plurality of different fields further comprises a series of DTMF tones for accessing the proper DTMF-controlled system within the plurality of DTMF-controlled systems (col.3 lines 10-53).

Regarding claim 7, Bulfer teaches the arrangement as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one DTMF-controlled is a voice messaging system (col.3 lines 10-25).

Regarding claim 8, Bulfer teaches a method for interacting with at least one DTMF-controlled telecommunications system, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) accessing, by a user, a speech-to-DTMF tone application(col.3 lines 10-25);
- b) retrieving a proper user record for the user identified in step a) [col.3 lines 10-53];
- c) dialing out, by the application, to a DTMF-controlled system included in the user record retrieved in step b) [col.3 lines 10-53];
- d) bridging together the call between the user and the application and the call between the application and the DTMF-controlled system (col.3 lines 10-67 and col.4 lines 20-36);
- e) in response to predefined voice commands uttered by the user and received by the speech-to-DTMF tone application, translating said voice commands into one or more DTMF tones accepted as commands by the DTMF-controlled system; and f) transmitting said translated DTMF tone commands from the speech-to-DTMF tone application to the DTMF-controlled system (*col.3 lines 10-67*).

Regarding claim 9, Bulfer teaches the method as defined in claim 8 wherein in performing step a), the method comprises the additional step of authorizing a user by requesting and validating a spoken user password (col.2 lines 25-46 and col.3 lines 10-67; the specific DTMF-controlled systems' number is a spoken user password to be able to access the user's system).

Regarding claim 10, Bulfer teaches the method as defined in claim 8 wherein the method is used for retrieving messages from a plurality of different messaging systems associated with a single user, the method comprising the further steps of g) querying the user record for additional DTMF-controlled system fields; and
h) repeating steps c) - f) for each additional DTMF-controlled system (*col.3 lines 10-67; it is known that retrieving messages or bank acct info will prompt the user with several DTMF-controlled fields to access more detailed info (eg. "for acct info, press or say 2", then "for acct balance, press or say 1").*

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T Phan whose telephone number is 703-305-3206. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 8:30-6:30, in every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on 703-305-4895. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600.

JTP
April 1, 2003



FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

